

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07
PA-01 PRS-01 IGA-02 SSM-03 MC-02 IO-13 /122 W
-----290432Z 116638 /14

R 281330Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2643
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, MASS, XF, QA, US
SUBJ: AMIR OF QATAR PRAISES PRESIDENT'S MID EAST INITIATIVES,
COMMENTS ON U.S. ARMS AND ENERGY POLICIES AND
RELATIONS WITH IRAQ

1. SUMMARY: AMIR OF QATAR HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR PRESIDENT'S
MID EAST INITIATIVES AND APPEARS GENUINELY OPTIMISTIC ON
PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT. AMIR EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH
GENERAL PURPOSE OF NEW US ARMS SALES POLICY, BUT EXPRESSED
HOPE THAT US COULD BE HELPFUL ON GOQ'S CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS
REQUIREMENTS. ON ENERGY, AMIR SAID PRODUCERS SHOULD BE PREPARED
TO MEET INCREASED DEMAND WHILE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES BEING
DEVELOPED. RE IRAQ, AMIR APPROVED US INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE
RELATIONS; SAID SETTLEMENT OF KUWAIT/IRAQ BORDER PROBLEM MUST
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PRECEDE BETTER IRAQI-GULF STATE RELATIONS, AND NOTED THAT ILLNESS
OF IRAQI LEADERS SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING WIDE-RANGING CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR ON MAY 26,
AMIR OF QATAR SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL THANI EXPRESSED HIS
VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS AS OUTLINED BELOW.

3. MID EAST PEACE: I REVIEWED FOR AMIR RECENT US ACTIVITIES, PRESIDENT'S AND SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS, ETC. AMIR WAS EUPHORIC ABOUT PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVES AND NEW ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY OUTLINE. HE SAID HIS GREAT EXPECTATIONS OF PRESIDENT CARTER BEING FULFILLED. ACCORDING KHALIFA, PRESIDENT HAS SHOWN UNDERSTANDING OF ARABS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE TO U.S. AND TO WORLD STABILITY AND PEACE. HE BELIEVED PRESIDENT'S PRONOUNCEMENTS ON PALESTINIAN HOMELAND, ETC., WERE POLICY STATEMENTS AND NOT RPT NOT EMPTY WORDS. KHALIFA ADVISED THAT WE BASE OUR MID EAST POLICY IN FIRST INSTANCE ON SUPPORT FOR AND CLOSE COOPERATION WITH SAUDIS AND SADAT, BACKSTOPPED BY GULF STATES AND IRAN. KHALIFA ASSERTED THAT WITH THESE RELATIONS FIRMLY IN PLACE, U.S. COULD EFFECTIVELY STOP COMMUNIST INROADS IN AFRICA, RED SEA, ETC. HE POINTED TO MOROCCAN ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE AS EXAMPLE OF HOW GOOD RELATIONS WITH ARABS CAN PAY OFF FOR U.S. INTERESTS IN OTHER AREAS. AMIR'S THEME WAS FAMILIAR, I.E. IF US CAN CATALYZE JUST MIDDLE EAST SOLUTION SATISFACTORY TO ARABS, ALL OUR OTHER PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA AND OTHERS WILL BE MUCH MORE AMENABLE TO SOLUTION.

4. NEW US ARMS SALES POLICY: I BRIEFED AMIR DRAWING ON GUIDANCE PROVIDED BY DEPT. (IN ADVANCE OF MEETING WE HAD SENT KHALIFA COPY OF PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON SUBJECT, BUT IT WAS APPARENT THAT HE HAD NOT READ IT.) AMIR INDICATED HIS CONCURRENCE WITH BASIC PREMISES OF NEW ARMS SALES POLICY. HE SAID HE COULD NOT AGREE MORE THAT ARMS PURCHASES WERE A WASTEFUL DIVERSION OF RESOURCES THAT SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE WITH AMIR RECENT INDICATIONS THAT GOQ MIGHT BE SEEKING TO BUY FROM U.S. SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES

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OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS. I TOLD HIM THAT NEW ARMS SALES POLICY COULD IMPACT ON QATARI INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH US. AMIR RESPONDED THAT HE NOT INFORMED IN DETAIL ON QATARI INTEREST, ALTHOUGH HE AWARE OF IT AND KNEW IT ONLY INVOLVED "LIGHT WEAPONS." HE VOICED HOPE THAT WE COULD BE HELPFUL. I REPLIED THAT IN ANY CASE WE COULD DO NOTHING FURTHER UNTIL GOQ PRESENTED US WITH FORMAL WRITTEN REQUEST. I SAID I COULD NOT PREDICT WHAT USG REACTION MIGHT BE SINCE REQUEST WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED IN CONTEXT OF NEW POLICY, WHICH PUT BURDEN OF PROOF ON REQUESTER AND WOULD BE EVALUATED ON BASIS OF NEW GROUND RULES. AMIR ASKED IF I WERE TELLING HIM THAT H.B.S. ANSWER COULD BE "NO", AND I REPLIED THAT THIS WAS DISTINCT POSSIBILITY WHICH I WANTED HIM TO BE AWARE OF IN ADVANCE.

5. ENERGY: I BRIEFED AMIR ON PRESIDENT'S ENERGY POLICY PROPOSALS. (AGAIN, ALTHOUGH WE HAD PROVIDED HIM WITH WRITTEN MATERIALS ON THIS WELL IN ADVANCE, HE APPARENTLY HAD NOT READ THEM.) AMIR REMARKED THAT HE FOUND BROAD OUTLINES OF PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS APPROPRIATE. HE OBSERVED, HOWEVER, THAT ENERGY SUPPLY AND

DEMAND WAS A WORLD, NOT JUST A U.S., PROBLEM. HE ASSERTED THAT PRODUCERS SUCH AS QATAR BORE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF PETROLEUM TO INSURE CONTINUED INTERNATIONAL PROSPERITY AND DEVELOPMENT. ACCORDING KHALIFA, SHOULD THIS REQUIRE EXPANDED OIL PRODUCTION, IT SHOULD BE DONE WHILE AT SAME TIME DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES TO REPLACE FINITE PETROLEUM RESERVES.

6. RELATIONS WITH IRAQ: I BRIEFED AMIR ON HABIB VISIT TO BAGHDAD, AND HE EXPRESSED APPROVAL OF OUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. KHALIFA SAID THAT IMPROVEMENT OF IRAQ'S RELATIONS WITH GULF STATES DEPENDED ON ITS SATISFACTORILY RESOLVING BORDER DISPUTE WITH KUWAIT, AND HE HAD STRESSED THIS TO GOI MINISTER OF INTERIOR DURI DURING RECENT VISIT. AMIR COMMENTED THAT ILLNESS OF LEADERS WAS SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM FOR GOI-- ACCORDING KHALIFA, PRESIDENT BAKR WAS ALMOST OUT-OF-PICTURE AND SADDAM

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HUSAYN'S PAINFUL BACK AILMENT MOST CERTAINLY HAD SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON HIS PERFORMANCE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, ENERGY, ARMS, POLICIES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DOHA00650
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2563303
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMIR OF QATAR PRAISES PRESIDENT'S MID EAST INITIATIVES, COMMENTS ON U.S. ARMS AND ENERGY POLICIES AND RELATIONS WITH IRAQ
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, MASS, XF, QA, US, (CARTER, JIMMY), (THANI, KHALIFA IBN HAMAD AL)
To: STATE ABU DHABI
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c27c3096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009